

South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Guard Soldier to return from deployment

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Cpt. Becky Hoffman, Sioux Falls, will arrive home on Thursday, February 19, at 5:59 p.m. (CDT) at the Sioux Falls Airport after serving more than nine-months in Southwest Asia in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Hoffman, deployed as a member of South Dakota National Guard's 88th Troop Command, and volunteered to deploy with a logistics team and mobilized on June 18, 2008, with a primary mission of managing Soldier equipment distribution for U.S. Central Command (U.S. CENTCOM).

Hoffman served as an operations officer to the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI) for overseas operations in the U.S. CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR), and was responsible for daily RFI operations in theatre, to include delivery of RFI/Army Combat Uniform (ACU) equipment, problem solving and sizing Soldiers in forward operating bases for RFI/ACU equipment, and working as a liaison between military and civilian workers.

"I was very blessed by being able to work with the most patriotic, dedicated and professional team of military personnel and civilian contractors," said Hoffman. "My co-workers made my tour very enjoyable and rewarding."

Hoffman said she really enjoyed being able to provide the latest state-of-the-art equipment to Soldiers in an ever-changing battlefield environment. She was involved in over 9 RFI/ACU missions in five separate countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait.

Hoffman was directly in charge of 327,000 pieces of equipment given to 12,419 Soldiers, worth \$18.6 million. She personally placed over \$1.65 million in RFI/ACU equipment directly into the hands of Soldiers throughout the U.S. CENTCOM AOR, to include Iraq and Afghanistan.

“There were many challenges to the deployment,” added Hoffman. “Such as being an individually deployed Soldier rather than with a unit, dealing with cultural differences and being away from family and friends.”

While deployed, Hoffman was an avid runner and kept in top shape and her efforts paid off when she won the Army Ten Miler for her age group and she also ran the Disney Marathon in a time of 3 hours and 48 minutes.

Upon her return, Hoffman is looking forward to spending time with family and giving thanks to all the people who gave her support while deployed.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Brendan Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil.

NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.